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Archaeological
Institute
of America

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN
ARCHAEOLOGY

To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America :

GENTLEMEN,—The Committee on American Archaeology has the honor to report as follows :

On December 30, 1907, the Council of the Institute at Chicago, Illinois, adopted the following resolution relative to the establishment of the School of American Archaeology :

1. The School of American Archaeology is established to conduct the researches of the Institute in the American field and afford opportunities for field work and training to students of archaeology.

2. The School will direct the expeditions of the local Societies in their respective fields, maintain archaeological researches in the various culture areas of the American Continent, direct the work of Fellows and collaborate with universities and other scientific organizations, both home and foreign, in the advancement of archaeological research.

3. The School will afford to students opportunities for field experience and training. No courses will be given which duplicate class instruction offered by the universities. Students will be attached to field parties of the local Societies or to the other expeditions under the direction of the School. Classes may be formed to proceed to any point where important archaeological work is in progress for field sessions.

4. The Committee on American Archaeology, consisting of the President and Secretary of the Institute and seven other members elected by the Council, one each year for a term of seven years, shall be the Managing Committee of the School; and the Director of American Archaeology appointed by the Committee, shall be its executive officer. The Committee is authorized to maintain Fellowships, archaeological stations,

publications, and the various lines of work herein provided for, and to raise funds for the support of the same. Its funds shall be held by the Treasurer of the Institute and disbursed by him on the order of the Chairman of the Managing Committee, approved by the President of the Institute.

Pursuant to the resolution adopted, the Council elected the following persons as members of the Managing Committee of the School :

Miss Alice C. Fletcher, 214, 1st Street, S.E., Washington, D.C., *Chairman*.

Professor Franz Boas, Columbia University, New York City.

Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, 28, State Street, Boston, Mass.

Professor Mitchell Carroll, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., *ex officio*.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. John Hays Hammond, Lakewood, N.J.

Professor Francis W. Kelsey, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., *ex officio*.

Dr. Charles F. Lummis, Public Library, Los Angeles, Cal.

Professor Frederick W. Putnam, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

On December 31, 1907, the Committee on American Archaeology met and adopted certain rules relative to the management of its meetings, and appointed Edgar L. Hewett as Director of American Archaeology and Director of the School of American Archaeology.

A tentative plan contemplating a system of field research in the various culture areas of the American Continent, to be carried forward through the Affiliated Societies of the Institute and coöperating institutions, was presented and accepted.

The Director was authorized to take steps toward financing the field work of the coming season.

The services of the Director were granted to the Lecture Committee of the Institute for the "Western Circuit."

The Director was given leave of absence to visit foreign Schools, and to present himself for the final examinations for his doctor's degree at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

On March 1, the Director reported to the chairman that \$3500 was available for field operations in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. Also that the sum of \$3000 a year had been

pledged for a term of five years for field work in Central America, which might begin in December, 1908.

In April a bulletin was issued stating :

“The following expeditions are announced :

“I. IN COLORADO. — Excavations will be made in the Pueblo and Cliff House ruins in the Colorado tributaries of the McElmo Canyon in the southwestern part of the State. Work will begin June 15. All who are admitted to this expedition will be expected to meet at Holly’s ranch on the McElmo near the Colorado-Utah line (reached by stage from Cortez, Colorado) on the 15th day of June.

“II. IN UTAH. — Excavations will be made in the Pueblo and Cliff House ruins in the Utah tributaries of McElmo Canyon in the southeastern part of the State. Work will begin June 1. All persons who are admitted to this expedition will be expected to meet at Holly’s ranch (see above) on the 15th day of June.

“III. IN NEW MEXICO. — Excavations will be made in the Pueblo and Cliff House ruins of Pajarito Plateau in the northern part of the Territory. Work will begin August 15. All who are admitted to this expedition will be expected to meet at the Palace Hotel in Santa Fé at 10 o’clock A.M. on the 15th day of August.

“IV. IN CENTRAL AMERICA. — An expedition for the study of the Maya culture will take the field about December 1. Final announcements concerning the admission of students to this expedition and the time and place of meeting will be made later.”

The American Committee met in Washington, July 13, when the Director reported that the first half of the year had been employed as follows: eight weeks in organizing and financing the work for the year, mainly in the West; ten weeks in visiting the Schools of the Institute at Rome, Athens, and Jerusalem, studying excavations in Egypt, Syria, and Greece, and observing the methods and organization of foreign schools of Archaeology; eight weeks in finishing required work for his doctor’s degree in the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

On October 1 the Director reported to the Chairman that the three expeditions announced in the Bulletin had been carried out, and also reported progress on the project for work in

Central America. For details of the season's work, see the report of the Director.

Within the past month the Chairman and the Director of American Archaeology have visited New Mexico and Colorado for the purpose of looking into the respective merits of these regions, having in view the choice of a permanent location for the School of American Archaeology.

The American Fellowship has remained vacant during this year.

The School of American Archaeology was founded to be a School of field research, with two purposes in view: (1) To afford opportunities for the field training of students who had already received instruction in archaeology, through books and lectures at the various colleges of the country, and (2) by pursuing a systematic plan of original research to be able eventually to offer a substantial contribution to the past history of man upon this continent, and thus to do its share in the broad study of humanity pursued by the Institute.

The School has only just begun, yet this, its first year of work, has shown that its foundation was timely, and while much remains to be adjusted and provided for in the near future, the outlook is full of encouragement to its well-wishers.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE C. FLETCHER, *Chairman.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.
November 12, 1908.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1908

To the Committee on American Archaeology:

I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report as Director of American Archaeology of the Archaeological Institute of America.

The work of the year has been prosecuted in accordance with the plan approved by your committee at the meeting in Chicago, December 31, 1907. This was an extension, in some detail, of the fundamental plan for the American work adopted by the Institute at the meeting in Washington in 1906. It involved, in addition to the direction of the field expeditions of the branch Societies, the initial operations of the School of American Archaeology, of which the act of the Council of December 30, 1907, makes the Director of American Archaeology *ex officio* Director.

In the inauguration of the institution of research established and defined by this act, many new and interesting problems have arisen. These have been considered at great length with the Chairman and more or less in detail with the individual members of this Committee. The organization and work of the other three Schools of the Institute have been studied, and light has been sought in the experience and methods of all the Schools of Archaeology maintained by the European nations. This has been an inestimable aid in shaping the policy of the School of American Archaeology.

In the question of broad scientific policy, the Director has no choice but to execute the will of the Council. The aims and scope of the School are clearly defined in the fundamental articles which represent the mature, collective judgment of the organization. In questions relating to the organization and conduct of expeditions, equipment, the management of camps, the direction of men, the technical work of excavating, there are no formidable problems that are peculiar to American

archaeology. It has been the privilege of the Director during the past five years to observe, on the ground, the principal excavations that have been in progress in the United States, Mexico, Italy, Greece, Egypt, and Syria, and the similarity everywhere presented in these practical problems has been most striking. Some of the questions that are new to our organization are the selection of the centres of investigation that are of primary importance, the continent as a whole being considered; the direction of the work of numerous branch Societies so as to produce satisfactory scientific results; the organization of the system of coöperation between existing institutions which seems to be of vital importance here because of the vast extent of the field to be investigated; the establishment of relations with the educational and scientific forces of the States that will make for the general advancement of archaeological research.

In matters relating to the direction of the work of students, the financing of operations, the development of capable assistants so as to insure continuity of work during a considerable period of time, the preparation and publication of results, we have no greater difficulties to meet than those which confront all organizations that deal with similar questions.

It can only be said at present that some progress has been made toward the solution of some of the problems of the organization.

The field operations announced in Bulletin No. 1, April, 1908, were carried out as planned. The special work for the year in Colorado consisted in the excavation of the Southern Pueblo in the Cannonball group of ruins in the McElmo drainage. The plans for the excavation of this ruin were prepared during the field season of 1907, and much of the success of the expedition is due to the efficient work of field assistant Sylvanus G. Morley, aided in the business management by Dr. A. J. Fynn, representing the Colorado Society.

This ruin was completely excavated and studied and all the material remains of the ancient inhabitants recovered. It is a good specimen of the ruins of the McElmo district, the first of its type to be thoroughly and scientifically excavated, and the second ruin in the State of Colorado to be so treated. The

State University and State Historical Society of Colorado coöperated with the School in this expedition.

Besides this excavation, the general work on the archaeology of southwestern Colorado, commenced in 1906, was considerably advanced. The photographic record of the Mesa Verde National Park was pushed well toward completion. The archaeological map of the Park is almost finished. The archaeological map of the McElmo district was extended and the photographic work on this district carried forward.

In Utah the specific work consisted of the excavation of burial places and a portion of the main pueblo at Cave Spring in the Montezuma drainage on the southeastern slope of the Abajo Plateau. As in 1907, the business management of the Utah expedition was in the hands of Dean Byron Cummings of the State University, and field assistant A. V. Kidder rendered efficient service in the scientific study of the site. To them is due the credit for the profitable season's work. This was the first ruin in that district to be scientifically excavated, and the results are very satisfactory. It appears to have been a large and important town.

In addition to this excavation, substantial additions were made to the archaeological map of southeastern Utah, especially in the Montezuma drainage, and in the region between the San Juan River and the Utah-Arizona line.

Of the New Mexico expedition the Director was in personal charge during the entire season. The site chosen for study was the canyon of the Rito de los Frijoles, a tributary of the Rio Grande in the Pajarito Plateau, twenty miles northwest of Santa Fé. This site was selected and the work planned in 1907. It proves to be of unexpected interest and magnitude. The work of the present season is only a beginning. Several years will be required to lay bare the archaeological remains at this site. The work for this season consisted of the determination of the character and extent of the ruins in the Canyon; the preparation of topographical and archaeological maps, plans, etc.; the photographic record of the remains now visible; the excavation of 43 rooms in the great community house of Tyuonyi and about 60 in outlying ruins; the excavation of two great kivas or sanctuaries, one of these being the largest ever

discovered ; the study of the language and myths of the Tewa Indians, and the restoration of one excavated cliff dwelling to its original condition. For this purpose a typical, well-preserved dwelling was selected, made accessible by means of a ladder, and all appurtenances of its former domestic life restored to their proper places. It is now possible for the first time for travellers to see anywhere in the great cliff dwelling region of the United States a house with all its ancient furnishings in place and the manner of life that existed there made clear. It is the belief of the Director that the educational value of our American ruins to the whole people can be vastly increased by a more extensive use of this idea. It is the beginning of the field museum in our country.

In the New Mexico expedition the School had the coöperation of Peabody Museum of Harvard University, the Santa Fé Archaeological Society, and the Southwest Society. Besides the work done in the Rito de los Frijoles, the study commenced by the Southwest Society in 1907 of the Puye and adjacent region was carried forward and some additions to our knowledge of that group are still being made through the reports of local investigators.

The excellent photographs that will accompany the reports on the expedition in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico are the work of the official photographer for the School, Mr. Jess Nusbaum, teacher of manual training in the New Mexico Normal University, who spent some time at every site studied and rendered valuable services in other lines of work as well.

In the New Mexico expedition, Mr. Kenneth M. Chapman, to whose skill with pencil and brush the Southwest, and the writer in a very special way, has long been indebted, was engaged during the entire campaign. His exceptional ability as an illustrator was at our disposal at all times. The value of his services to the School will be obvious on examination of the maps, plans, sketches, and water colors illustrating the work at the Rito de los Frijoles to be exhibited at the meeting of the Institute in Toronto.

A noteworthy advance over the work of 1907 in New Mexico was made by the assignment of Mr. John Harrington of Santa Ana, California, to the study of the language of the Tewa

Indians. As the villages of this stock occupy the country immediately adjacent to that of the ancient cultures that we are studying and these Indians are the successors to and in some measure blood descendants of the ancient people of this plateau, the value of their myths, traditions, folklore, and ceremonies is inestimable. A substantial beginning was made in the study of their language and considerable additions made to our knowledge of their myths.

The following persons were attached to the various expeditions of the School during the year 1908:—

Mr. K. M. Chapman, Dean Byron Cummings, Mr. Hugo DeFritsch, Dr. R. B. Dixon, Dr. A. J. Fynn, Mr. John Harrington, Mr. Neill Judd, Mr. A. V. Kidder, Mr. Clifton Lockhart, Mr. Warner McLaughlin, Mr. Sylvanus G. Morley, Mr. J. H. Morley, Mr. Jess Nusbaum, Mr. L. C. Parsons, Mr. Paul Stanwood, Dr. Alfred W. Tozzer, Mr. B. A. Tozzer.

It is a pleasure to report the healthy activity of the Western Societies of the Institute in field work. No less important is the museum development which must of necessity accompany this activity. A glance at the report of the Southwest Society shows it to have already a museum containing collections valued at \$84,000 and a building site valued at \$50,000 on which \$38,000 has been paid. If the activity manifested in this enterprise by the people of Los Angeles during the past five years continues unabated, we may reasonably expect to see there within a few years one of the greatest American museums. The archaeological collections of the State Universities of Colorado and Utah and of the Historical and Archaeological Societies of Colorado and New Mexico are not yet extensive, but each of these Institutions has made an excellent beginning.

The entrance of the Western States through these local institutions into active field work in archaeology is a noteworthy step. Nearly all the ancient ruins of the Southwest have been more or less dug over and only a very small per cent of the material therefrom has found its way into reputable public museums accompanied by the necessary data to give it scientific value. These States now join actively in the work of excavating and preserving their ancient ruins and saving the collections therefrom for installation in their own museums.

There can be no question of the wisdom of this policy. It is the belief of the writer that cultural material is nowhere else so instructive both to students and the public as in conjunction with the buildings and in the environment where it was produced. Therefore the field museum should be developed wherever it can have proper custodianship. A cliff house in such a place as the Rito de los Frijoles or the Mesa Verde National Park at once furnishes a fire-proof building which can be made inaccessible at will and affords an opportunity to display material in exactly the condition in which it was used. Such museums should, of course, be developed only in places which, like those mentioned, are visited by many travellers and can be placed in proper custodianship.

The question of the wise use of museum material, so as to make it serve the greatest good of the greatest number, is one that demands consideration. It would seem as though a system of coöperation might be established between the School of American Archaeology with its affiliated institutions on the one hand and the great museums of the country, such as the National Museum of the United States, on the other, whereby type collections from every district studied could be furnished to the larger museums, in exchange for which generous contributions of material, such as every large museum has stored out of sight, could be made to the smaller, local museums and there displayed for the benefit of the public. It might be possible to devise a system of this kind that would result in great mutual advantage to all concerned.

The publication of results of the American work will begin at once. A number of preliminary papers by the Director will appear during the present winter, also short papers on the work intrusted to them by Messrs. Morley, Kidder, and Harrington. A report on the Antiquities of Central Missouri by Gerard Fowke, embodying the results of his two years' work under the auspices of the St. Louis Society, is nearly ready for the press. A monographic report on the Antiquities of Southwestern Colorado, the material for which is almost entirely in hand, should be published at an early date.

The activities of the Institute in American Archaeology for 1909 will open with what promises to be the most important

work that it has yet undertaken in this field; namely, an expedition for the excavation of ruins in Central America. Provision has been made for the prosecution of this work for a period of five years. Two members of the Institute each contribute annually the sum of \$1500 for the support of the expedition, while the Institute furnishes the services of the Director of American Archaeology as Director of the work, and the Central American Fellow as Assistant.

A bulletin will appear in February announcing the various undertakings for 1909. For the field operations of the School in 1908, the following sums were contributed and expended under the supervision of the Director :

For the Utah Expedition :	
Col. E. A. Wall	\$1,000
For the Colorado Expedition :	
The Colorado State University	500
The Colorado State Historical Society	500
Individual Subscriptions	250
For the New Mexico Expedition :	
Peabody Museum, Harvard University	500
The New Mexico Archaeological Society	500
Individual Subscriptions	250
Total	<u>\$3,500</u>

Respectfully submitted,
EDGAR L. HEWETT, *Director*.

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
November 1, 1908.